were not absorbed in the company's Nasik Unit;

(b) the reasons for their non-absorption in view of their specialised training in aeronautics;

(c) whether Government have received any representation from the unions; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) One hundred sixteen apprentices trained by Hindustan Aeronautics could not be absorbed in the company's Nasik Unit.

(b) Due to dwindling work-load, low order book position and the availability of surplus man-power, these apprentices trained by Nasik Unit of the HAL could not be absorbed.

(c) Yes, the Government have received representations from the unions from time to time.

(d) The representations have been replied to and the unions have been informed that the ex-trainees will be provided employment as and when suitable vacancies arise.

CAG's recommendations on inexperienced flying instructors

3848. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news appearing in 'The Hindu' dated the 24th June, 1998, under the caption "IAF Instructors inexperienced, feels CAG"; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in pursuance of the CAG's recommendations in his latest report in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The flying instructors and senior flying supervisors posted to flying training establishments are carefully selected depending on their qualifications and experience. Before a pilot is posted as an instructor, he under-goes a rigorous 6 months course for flying instructional duties, followed up by upgradation of his category through written and flying examinations. In addition, constant checks are maintained to review the qualitative aspects of training.

Chinese assistance for developing Ghauri

3849. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that China had provided technological assistance to Pakistan for development of its latest ballistic missile "Ghauri";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what has been the reaction of the Chinese Army Chief who recently visited India; and

(d) what is India's position so far as surface to surface missile are concerned?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Pakistan does not have technological base to indigenously develop on its own a missile of 1500 km range. Reports suggest that the missile technology has been procured by Pakistan from a third country. Chinese assistance to Pakistan's missile programme is well known.

(c) During the recent visit of General Fu Quanyou, Chief of the General Staff of PLA of China, he met the three Service Chiefs and also called on the Raksha Mantri and the Prime Minister. During the meetings with the RM and the PM, matters of mutual interest and concern were discussed in a friendly atmosphere.

(d) 'Prithvi', a surface-to-surface missile system, developed under Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) for Army is under production. Work on the Air Force and